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and the author states his reasons for believing that the branchial filaments are the principal absorbing organs, the materials they receive being chiefly employed in the construction of the electrical organs, while those which enter into the composition of the body generally are absorbed by the general surface of the fœtus. The author is led, from his researches, to the conclusion that the mode of reproduction in the *Torpedo* is intermediate between the viviparous and the ovoviviparous.

In the second part of the paper, the author discusses the question as to the number of species of the genus *Torpedo* existing in the Mediterranean ; and concludes that there are only two, viz. the *Ochiatella* and the *Tremola*.

4. "Appendix to a former Paper on Human Osteology." By Walter Adam, M.D. Communicated by Dr. Prout, F.R.S.

This appendix contains linear representations of various dimensions of the bones of the human body, both male and female, with a view to facilitate the comparison of the human frame with that of other animals, and reduce it to definite laws. The author states that many of the rectilinear dimensions of human bones appear to be multiples of one unit, namely, the breadth of the cranium directly over the external passage of the ear ; a dimension which he has found to be the most invariable in the body. No division of that dimension was found by him to measure the other dimensions so accurately as that by seven, or its multiples. Of such seventh parts there appear to be twelve in the longitudinal extent of the back, and ninety-six in the height of the whole body.

5. "On the Repulsive Power of Heat." By the Rev. Baden Powell, M.A., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Geometry in the University of Oxford.

The expansion of bodies by heat appearing to imply a mutual repulsion of their particles, it becomes a question whether such repulsive power may not be excited by it between particles or masses of matter, at sensible as well as insensible distances. After noticing the partial investigations of this question by Libri, Fresnel, Saigey, and Professor Forbes, the author describes the methods he has employed with a view to its solution, and which consisted in applying heat to two lenses of glass, pressed together so as to exhibit the colours of thin plates ; the variation of the tints furnishing exact indications of the most minute changes of distance between the surfaces, by whatever causes they may be produced. The conclusion he deduces from his experiments, conducted on this plan, is that the separation of the surfaces is of a different character, and is greater than can be accounted for by the mere change of figure produced by the heat ; and is therefore in part to be ascribed to a real repulsive action between the surfaces of the glasses derived from the power of heat. He also found, on trying similar experiments with glass in contact with a metallic surface, that the results were considerably influenced by the radiating power of the latter ; the effect being increased when this power was greater, and